STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

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THE CLEAR CHOICE

ITS BACK!! THE CLEAR CHOICE RETURNS

After almost three years hiatus, Storm Water Management's **The Clear Choice** newsletter has returned with publication of this issue. It is anticipated that the newsletter will be published quarterly to provide interested citizens information regarding the City of Chattanooga's Storm Water Management Program.

The re-emergence of **The Clear Choice** fills a void by informing Chattanooga on on-going drainage improvements and water quality issues. It also helps the city meet public relations and education requirements of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the State of Tennessee, which is a water quality permit aimed at reducing pollutants released into the environment during storm events.

Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

- Help us save money, sign up to receive the newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address to SWM@mail.chattanooga.gov
- Want to see something in the newsletter? Let us know . Contact us by call, fax or e-mail. The contact numbers are on page 4.

MOSQUITOES AND STORM WATER DETENTION FACILITIES

In response to the recent outbreak of West Nile virus across the country, Storm Water would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain storm water detention facilities such as detention ponds and oil / floatable skimmers.

The failure to conduct routine maintenance on these facilities will lead to increased numbers of mosquitoes as standing water and accumulated trash provide an excellent breeding location.

Most detention ponds are designed to detain rainfall and slowly discharge it after the storm. Ponds should not hold water continuously. Ponds are not working properly if the water stands for several days after the rain event.

Some detention facilities were designed as constructed wetlands and wet ponds. These facilities are designed to hold water continuously and may need special attention to keep maintained.

Guidelines for maintaining your pond include:

- Remove all trash;
- Keep it mowed;
- Maintain the skimmer;
- Remove excessive vegetation;
- Keep it draining properly

If you have a question concerning your pond, please call Storm Water. We will be glad to discuss your ponds maintenance with you.

NEW FEDERAL SPILL PREVENTION CONTROL AND COUNTERMEASURE RULE

A new Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule became effective August 16, 2002.

A new Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule became effective August 16, 2002. The regulation can be found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 112 (Oil Pollution Prevention).
Highlights of final SPCC Rule:

- Exempts completely buried storage tanks that are subject to all of the technical requirements of the UST regulations (40 CFR Parts 280 or 281);
- Exempts portions of certain facilities or any facility used exclusively for wastewater treatment or associated with oil production. This exemption does not apply to production, recycling, or recovery of oil;
- Establishes a de minimis container size of 55 gallons;
- Establishes an above ground storage capacity threshold of greater than 1,320 gallons and removes the 660 gallon threshold;
- Revises the trigger for submitting information on spills at SPCC regulated facilities to EPA. Facilities are now required to submit SPCC plans after having two discharges (over 42 gallons) in any 12 month period;
- Allows deviations from most rule provisions (with the exception of secondary containment requirements) when equivalent environmental protection is provided;
- Provides for a flexible plan format, but requires a cross reference showing that all regulatory requirements are met;
- Clarifies rule applicability to the storage and operational use of oil.

The revisions to the SPCC rule also may affect whether you need to prepare and maintain a Facility Response Plan (FRP) or how you calculate worst case discharge planning levels. For more information on this rule contact visit the EPA Web site.

The preceding information was published in the September 26, 2002 issue of WRAP Sheet. WRAP Sheet is published by the Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Program (TMEP), an education and assistance program of The University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services.

TDEC FUNDAMENTALS OF EROSION PREVENTION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN CHATTANOOGA

The University of Tennessee is offering the TDEC Fundamentals of Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Training and Certification class on October 30, 2002 at the Associated General Contractors-Chattanooga Chapter's 101 W. Twenty-First Street office. This course is considered a foundation-building course intended for individuals involved in land-disturbing activities and will provide a working knowledge of erosion and sedimentation processes and practices. It is recommended that developers, contractors, construction site superintendents, design engineers, and erosion control inspection personnel attend this day-long course. A certificate of completion will be awarded and 6 Professional Development Hours are available to everyone who completes the class and passes an exam at the end of the workshop.

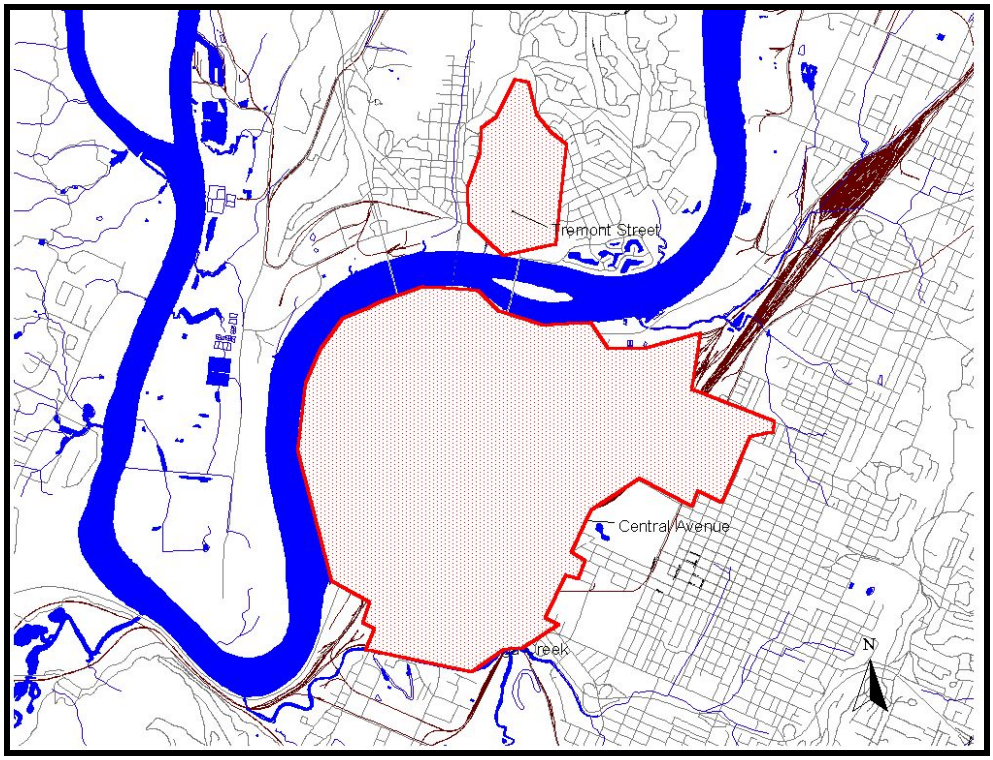
To register, please contact the University of Tennessee Water Resources Research Center at (865) 974-2151 or email Tim Gangaware at gangwrrc@utk.edu.

LIVING AND WORKING IN CHATTANOOGA'S COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW AREAS

Many thousands of Chattanooga residents live and work in combined sewer overflow areas. Combined Sewer systems, or CSOs, are sewers that are designed to collect rainwater, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. Most of the time, CSOs flow to the wastewater treatment plant for treatment. However, during heavy rain events when its capacity is exceeded, the CSOs were designed to overflow into streams and rivers.

In order to reduce the number of overflows and improve the quality of our creeks and river, Chattanooga has spent approximately $40 million dollars constructing large primary treatment and storage structures. These structures have minimized the number of annual overflows, as well as, dramatically reduced the amount of contamination entering to the Tennessee River from the CSOs.

While improving our water quality, the City work has not eliminated two additional issues associated with CSOs, occasional odor emitting from storm drains during hot, dry days and backflow through basement drains during heavy rain events. In order to mask the odors, public works personnel can install deodorant blocks in offensive storm drains. Please contact the Moccasin Bend Waste Water Treatment Plant at (423) 757-5026 regarding this program. In order to minimize damage from backflow, it is the City's recommendation that backflow preventers be installed by a licensed plumber on drains with a history of back flowing during heavy rain events. This is your responsibility as property owner.



Combined Sewer Overflow areas are located within the hatched outline. They include areas of downtown and North Chattanooga.

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATERSHED: TENNESSEE RIVER

(This is a series of articles that are designed to help you better understand where you live in conjunction with the major streams and the Tennessee River. Next issue: South Chickamauga Creek)

A watershed is defined as the entire area drained by a river or stream and all its smaller streams. As such, everyone in Chattanooga lives in the Tennessee River watershed. If you were able to put a feather in the stream or drainage channel nearest your house it would eventually wind up in the Tennessee River. Depending upon where you live in Chattanooga, the feather may float down Chattanooga Creek, Citico Creek, Lookout Creek, Mountain Creek, North Chickamauga Creek, South Chickamauga Creek or even a smaller unnamed stream that drains directly to the river.

A great number of us use the Tennessee River for swimming, boating, and fishing. Many of us also get our drinking water from the river as the Tennessee American Water Company and Eastside Utility draw their water out of the river. Cities downstream from Chattanooga also get their drinking water from the river, which means we must protect it from pollution by watching what we put into it.

Currently, the State of Tennessee has a precautionary fishing advisory for catfish on the Nickajack Reservoir portion of the river due to past industrial pollution. Young children and pregnant women should limit their intake of catfish taken from the river due to sediment contaminated with PCBs and dioxin. The contaminants are not found in the water column, itself.

Help protect the river. Remember, you live in the river's watershed. Anything that you have outside can be washed away during the next rain and eventually will find its way to the river. This includes fertilizers, herbicides, oil, grass clippings, cigarette butts, soda cans, and fast food containers, just to mention a few. Dispose of trash properly and use lawn chemicals properly. If you notice a strange color or odor in a stream or channel, call Storm Water Management and report it. Everyone can help in keeping our river safe for our use.